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House of Representatives

The House met at 4:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 15, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon our Nation. Bless the work of the Members of the people's House. May they toil diligently to bring about solutions to the pressing issues of these times.

Bless all the men and women across our country, especially those who work in service to others: police; firefighters; healthcare providers; teachers; those who work in local, State, and national government; and those men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

During contentious days, may Your spirit of peace and comity descend upon all engaged, that the truth might be revealed and justice and good government for all be preserved.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DUNN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING GEORGE COCHRAN

(Mr. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George "Boogie" Cochran, Jr., who passed away peacefully at the age of 89 on March 1.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Cochran lived a life in full, one of family and of service.

As a 17-year-old Leon High School student, he enlisted in the Navy in 1944. He served bravely aboard Navy destroyers in the Pacific campaigns. He participated in America's nuclear weapons testing after the war, and in the action surrounding the Cuban Missile Crisis.

In 1963, in recognition of his dedicated and courageous service in the Navy, Chief Cochran was awarded the first annual Commander Ernest Evans Memorial Award aboard the USS Johnston.

He loved his family, his country, and his community. He represents the best of America.

Boogie, you will be missed by many, and may you rest in peace.

OPPOSING THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, my constituents have been calling all weekend. They do not support the Republican health care bill, TrumpCare.

Over the weekend, we received 750 calls or emails. Ninety-three percent of those have contacted me to say that they are against TrumpCare, and here is why:

Higher costs for less care; \$2,400 annually for an average American family.

Millions kicked off health care. The Congressional Budget Office says 24 million. Some might say they are way off. So maybe it is 20 million. Maybe it is 30 million. Lots of Americans lose health care as a result of this plan.

An age tax. If you are age 50 to 65, fasten your seat belts; \$6,971 in increased costs for lesser health care.

And huge, huge tax breaks for millionaires. The 400 richest Americans would get an average \$7 million tax break.

This is not the right direction for this country. It is not the right direction for health care. We should reject it.

RECOGNIZING SHELBY TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN, POLICE OFFICERS

(Mr. MITCHELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an act of bravery from police officers in an incident occurring just miles from my district office in Shelby Township, Michigan.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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In mid-February, Sergeant Troy Titchenell and Officer Paul Fox responded to a call that a boy had fallen through the ice on Iroquois Lake. Sergeant Titchenell, without concern for himself, first on the scene, immediately got a life ring from a local resident and walked onto the ice. Officer Fox then arrived and walked onto the ice to take the rope attached to the life ring.

While towing the young man to safety, the ice broke and Sergeant Titchenell was submerged in the water up to his chest. With Officer Fox pulling on the rope and Sergeant Titchenell supporting the boy in the water, both were able to rescue the young man. I believe they saved a life that day.

This incident exemplifies the risks police officers will take to protect all of us. Their daily acts of bravery must be recognized. I am proud to highlight the actions of these courageous officers, and I am grateful to recognize their service to our community.

IN SUPPORT OF THE GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of one of our most magnificent natural wonders: the Great Lakes. They contain a fifth of the world's freshwater and are vitally important to the economy and the quality of life in my district.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which has received strong support from both sides of the aisle, works to clean up the Great Lakes, control invasive species, restore habitats, and reduce runoff. Yet we have heard that President Trump may virtually eliminate this critical program with an eye-popping irresponsible 97 percent cut to the budget; \$300 million in funding would be reduced to just \$10 million.

At the same time, his administration may gut EPA funds for climate science, clean air, and safe water.

Let me be clear. I am adamantly opposed to these cuts and will do everything in my power to stop them.

Tomorrow, on Great Lakes Day, the President is expected to release a budget proposal. I urge him to include robust funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the EPA programs and ensure we pass on a sustainable, healthy planet to our children.

IMPROVE THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Original Pizza in Broomfield, Colorado, has been in business since the 1990s. Now they are being sued.

The plaintiff claims they do not have ADA-accessible parking signage or proper insulation wrapped around the pipes under the restroom sink.

The claims waged against Original Pizza are mostly false. The sink is compliant, and the parking issue could be fixed with a better sign and a bit of paint. Not to mention, Original Pizza was never notified of the alleged violations by the plaintiff.

Now the plaintiff is demanding money to pay or a lawsuit will be filed. The same plaintiff has filed over 70 other lawsuits against businesses for alleged ADA violations.

Plaintiffs and attorneys hope companies will decide to settle rather than face an expensive court trial.

The ADA Education and Reform Act will require giving businesses notice and time to fix the alleged infraction before the lawsuit is filed. Notice and cure are a fair way to handle ADA violations.

And that is just the way it is.

CELEBRATING ADMIRAL LLOYD "JOE" VASEY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send my warmest aloha to Admiral Lloyd "Joe" Vasey on his belated 100th birthday celebration tonight in Honolulu.

After graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1939, Admiral Vasey joined the submarine service and served under John S. McCain, Jr., father of United States Senator JOHN MCCAIN.

After the war and a long and distinguished service to our Nation, Admiral Vasey formed the CSIS Pacific Forum, with the goal of promoting peace in Asia Pacific. He is why we call the men and women of his time the Greatest Generation.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the admiral by working to help make his dream of a Pacific War Memorial at Pearl Harbor a reality.

In his words: "There is no recognition for well over 150,000 brave Americans who were lost in the Pacific War. We need to honor them, and their families need a place to mourn."

Admiral Vasey's patriotism, devotion to duty, and desire for peace should be an example for us all.

Happy birthday, Admiral Vasey, and may you continue to have fair winds and following seas.

DENNIS COUNIHAN SELECTED AS SAVANNAH'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Dennis Counihan for being named

grand marshal of Savannah's 2017 St. Patrick's Day Parade. The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah has been a beloved local tradition and an important family affair since its beginning in 1824.

Welcoming visitors from all over the world to celebrate its Irish heritage, Savannah astonishingly hosts the third largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in the world and the second largest in the United States. As such, the position of grand marshal is not to be taken lightly. This year there were a record-setting six nominees vying for the position, but Mr. Counihan rose above the rest due to his experience and dedication to Savannah.

Mr. Counihan's love for his community is emphasized through his work with the Hollander Senior Living company, where he purchases old real estate to be redesigned as nursing homes.

It seems as if Mr. Counihan was destined to be grand marshal, considering his family's role in the parade over the years. His brother Brian is currently the parade chairman, and his father, Michael, served as the parade's grand marshal in 1988.

Mr. Counihan has been on the parade committee since 1980. He certainly knows the dedicated effort that goes into making this event special and successful.

Congratulations, Mr. Counihan, on this great honor. I look forward to seeing the new additions you will bring to the parade.

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advocate for a national infrastructure plan.

I represent the central coast of California, and this winter we got rain. We got a lot of rain. So much so that it caused millions in damage to the area, including the closure of the famous Highway 1 in Big Sur, with major mudslides in the south and the loss of the 315-foot Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge in Big Sur.

That damage has left 450 people isolated: kids can't get to school; families are separated; and employers and employees are suffering, including the loss of \$8 million in 1 month in the off-season.

But the effects of that damage extend beyond Big Sur to the surrounding towns, counties, and, actually, the entire State of California. People from all over the world come to Big Sur. They drive down from San Francisco. They drive up from Los Angeles. They patronize towns all along their way to Big Sur.

We understand why. It is the most beautiful place in the world. It is my home. And we want it to be open to all of you.